

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5917

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 5086

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARTHUR HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR
BUCHANAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LY, AU

SUBJECT: LYBIAN AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE CONCERNING US-LYBIAN
RELATIONS

1. AT PHILLIPINE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION TODAY, I WAS
APPROACHED BY LYBIAN AMBASSADOR EZZEDIN AL-GHADAMSI WHO
WAS ANXIOUS THAT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REACH HIGH
LEVEL AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON:

2. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO A MEMBER OF THE LYBIAN REVOLUTIONARY
CONCIL WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER OF PLANNING TOLD AL-
GHADAMSI THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WERE IN FAVOR
OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES BUT WERE
RUNNING INTO STIFF OPPOSITION FROM A VOCIFEROUS PRO-
SOVIET UNION GROUP. THE MINISTER SAID THAT SOME GESTURE
ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD GREATLY ASSIST HIM
AND HIS FACTION OF THE COUNCIL IN CONVINCING QUADAFI THAT
IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS IN THE LYBIAN
NATIONAL INTEREST. HE SAID THAT QUADAFI WAS TILTING IN
THAT DIRECTION HAVING ALREADY CHOSEN AN AMBASSADOR TO
WASHINGTON AND NEEDED ONLY A QUOTE LITTLE SOMETHING UNQUOTE
TO MAKE FURTHER OVERTURES.

3. AL-GHADAMSI REPORTED THAT THE GESTURE THE
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MINISTER HAD IN MIND WAS USG APPROVAL FOR THE

RELEASE OF QUOTE SOME NINE OR TEN CARGO PLANES WHICH
WERE STILL SITTING ON AN AIRFIELD SOMEWHERE IN THE
UNITED STATES EVEN THOUGH THE LYBIAN GOVERNMENT HAD
PAID FOR THEM OVER TEN MONTHS AGO UNQUOTE.

4. COMMENT: I HAVE NO WAY OF EVALUATING THE
ABOVE AND PASS IT ON FOR WHAT ITS WORTH.
AL-GHADAMSI, WHO IS ALWAYS MOST CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY
TOWARDS AMERICANS APPEARED UNUSUALLY SERIOUS IN
CONVEYING THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND EXPRESSED THE
HOPE THAT I WOULD SOON PROVIDE HIM WITH AN ANSWER
FOR HIS MINISTER.

5. I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHAT TO SAY TO
THE GOOD AMBASSADOR AT OUR NEXT ENCOUNTER. BUCHANAN

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